

# The Lindheimer Quarterly 2nd Quarter 2025





"Pollinator" by Nancy DeMarco

Lindheimer Chapter

Texas Master Naturalist<sup>TM</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

25 Years of Service, Outreach and Education

2000 - 2025



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### From the Editor

Lindheimer Chapter is 25 years old. In that time, our chapter has enrolled 558 students in 27 training classes. Members have volunteered 292,127 hours and earned 57,452 advanced training hours! Our members have participated in over 70 projects and hundreds of community events promoting the preservation of nature here in the Texas Hill Country. We look forward to the next 25 years of service, education & outreach!

Throughout this newsletter, there are beautiful photos submitted by our members. Do you have any photos to submit? Please do! Send to me at <u>LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com</u>. Our deepest gratitude to our member photographers!

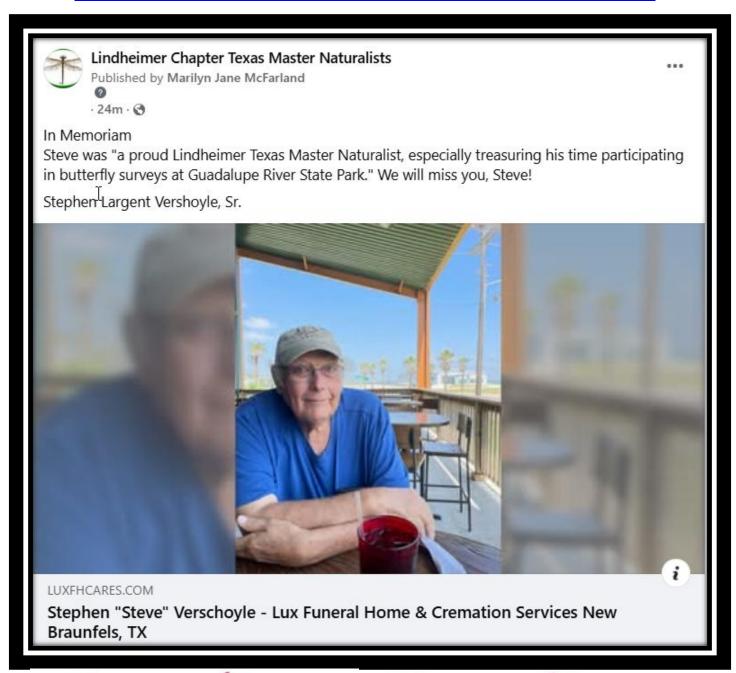
Many thanks to LMN member *Amy Sharp* for her contributions to the newsletter with articles on Night Sky and Madrone Trail Pollinator *Garden*.

Many thanks to LMN Membership Brian Trock for the chapter stats.

--MJ McFarland



https://www.luxfhcares.com/obits/stephen-steve-verschoyle/?nocache





## Lindheimer Chapter 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Facts Here are class names throughout the years. No classes in 2002. Two classes a year from 2004 – 2006.

2001	Founders			
2003	Founders II			
2004	Roadrunners (March)			
	Trailblazers (October)			
2005	Riparians (March)			
	Advocates (September)			
2006	Lone Star Guardians (April)			
	Fountain Darters (October)			
2007	Prickly Pears			
2008	Grass Roots			
2009	Pond Meisters			
2010	Free Mesquiteers			
2011	Comal Seeders			
2012	Canyon Spirits			
2013	Wildscapers			
2014	Green Team			
2015	Stone Rangers			
2016	Horned Lizards			
2017	N2Nature			
2018	Mud Daubers			
2019	Rock Stars			
2020	Red-tailed Hawks			
2021	Free-tailed Bats			
2022	Nine-banded Armadillos			
2023	Gray Foxes			
2024	Texas Yellow Stars			
2025	Painted Buntings			

## Comal County Friends of the Night Sky by Amy Sharp

The Comal County Friends of the Night Sky (CCFNS) was formed in March 2020 by a group of concerned residents who first met using Zoom. They are working on several initiatives to facilitate night sky friendly lighting in order to preserve and improve the stunning night sky of the Texas Hill Country and Comal County, TX and are a 501 (C) 3 not-for-profit organization.

Website: https://comaldarksky.org

Comal County Friends of the Night Sky is committed to the preservation and restoration of the Comal County night sky through example, education, and cooperation between neighbors, schools, businesses, and communities.



The Comal County Friends of the Night Sky promotes win-win solutions that allow people to appreciate dark, star-filled skies while enjoying the benefits of responsible outdoor lighting and preserving our County's rural lifestyle.

<u>Vision</u>: The night sky, filled with stars, is celebrated and protected around the world as a shared heritage benefiting all living things.

Purpose: To protect the night from light pollution.

<u>Approach</u>: The CCFNS will realize the vision by guiding strategy, monitoring results, and supporting aligned actions among volunteers and other stakeholders. By providing leadership, tools and resources for individuals, policymakers, and industry, CCFNS will work to reduce light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting that is beautiful, healthy, and functional.

<u>Successes</u>: The CCFNS successes are the continued education of residents and businesses to make their light fixtures dark sky friendly. In 2024, CCFNS gave, hosted, or attended twenty-five Preserve the Night presentations, fairs, parades, and film screenings of the documentary Stars At Night in Comal County. In 2025, we are on target to do the same.

In 2025, CCFNS received a grant from Hill Country Alliance to purchase 8 semi-permanent Sky Quality Meters (SQM) to be placed throughout Comal County to monitor our night sky

quality. The SQM readings will help us to access our light pollution levels and improvements as Comal County residents come to understand the importance of light pollution control.

CCFNS is actively working with Bulverde and Spring Branch in the application process to become International Dark Sky Communities.

Each year, we participate in October Night Sky Month by Hill County Alliance (HCA) asking Comal County and all Comal County cities to recognize and promote October as our Hill County Night Sky Month in Resolutions.

In coordination with HCA, CCFNS was instrumental in San Antonio adopting 3,000K in the 3-mile Military Lighting Overlay District (MLOD-1) and 4100K in the 3 to 5 MLOD-2. Camp Bullis is no longer able to conduct nighttime military training the south portion of the base. It is paramount for Comal County to maintain nighttime darkness to support training in the north portion of the base.

The CCFNS website has educational resources of the impact of light on wildlife, energy, health, and crime. There are also resources on what responsible lighting is and guidelines for residential and commercial properties.

Please contact CCFNS if you would like to host a Preserve the Night presentation at your HOA/POA, church, group, and school. Website: https://comaldarksky.org



## Chapter Information Page

#### 2025 MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS



Meetings are held in-person every 3rd Thursday (unless otherwise noted) 5:45 pm - 7:30pm **Public Welcome** 

Sign-up to bring snacks: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084EABAF23A 7F49-55530945-lindheimer

2025 Board of Directors Meetings Every 4th Monday at 5:00 PM Meetings are via Zoom All members welcome



#### Zoom Link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7461036858

#### Board Minutes available at:

https://txmn.org/lindheimer/chapter-info/lmn-boardmembers/lmn-board-minutes-archive/





#### 2025 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP



PRESIDENT **VICE PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER** 

**Sue Sommer** Laurie Dugan **Rob Kyrouac** Don Epps

**OFFICERS** 

#### **COMMITTEES**

### Standing Committees

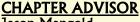
Education – Caroline Broderick, Director Membership & Records – Cheryl Trock, Brian Trock Outreach – Debbie Kyrouac Projects & Opportunities - Jeanie Springer

#### Subcommittees

Trunks – Deb Kyrouac Program to Assist Landowners (PAL) – Elisabeth Olszewski Community Recognition – Michael Buley Hospitality – Joni McGhee New Class Rep – Karen Meyer Photographer – Skyler Rightmire

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Director – MJ McFarland Out & About - Sara Riggs



Jason Mangold



## The Lindheimer Quarterly Newsletter

MJ McFarland – Editor Newsletter published quarterly by the Lindheimer Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™ to communicate, educate & inform chapter members & the Hill Country Community. Current and previous issues of The Quarterly are posted on the website https://txmn.org/lindheimer/whats-new

#### How to CONTACT Us



Email: LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com

**Website:** https://txmn.org/lindheimer

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer/



Snail Mail: Lindheimer Chapter c/o Comal County AgriLife 325 Resource Dr. New Braunfels, TX 78132

All photos by Darlene Varga

## Communications Photo Awards - April 2025











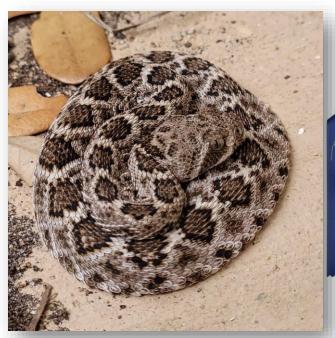


1<sup>st</sup> Place – Michael Buley 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Michael Buley 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Don Epps

Ribbons are awarded to the members whose photos receive the most "views" on our FaceBook page each month. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons will be presented at the monthly meetings. All you have to do is submit your photos to

LindheimerMNContact@gmail.com. Your photo will be posted on our page. If you don't have a FB account – no problem! I can take a screenshot & send it to you so you'll know what it looks like!

Thanks! Marilyn McFarland Director, Communications



## Communications Photo Awards - May 2025

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T
PLACE

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Tim Killam 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Sue Sommer (selfie) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Cindy Goodrum









## Communications Photo Awards - June 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Place Caroline Broderick 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Debbie Kyrouac 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Kris Moore







## Volunteer Opportunities

## By Amy Sharp

The Lindheimer Master Naturalist Projects Committee highlights volunteer opportunities in the Lindheimer Texas Master Naturalists newsletter. One or more sites will be shared quarterly to inform the LMN about the breadth of ways to support our community!

### Madrone Trail Pollinator Garden (MTPG)

In 2021, the Lindheimer Master Naturalist Chapter was asked to be a partner in the creation of a pollinator habitat in a long-abandoned federal radar station site that was located at Canyon Lake. This site was a 1-acre field of solid grass, consisting of a KR Bluestem monoculture. It was basically a biologic desert, but our Chapter saw this as an opportunity to restore, conserve and preserve the native plant habitat that had been there originally.

A butterfly-shaped garden of more than 13,300 square feet was created to educate the public on the importance of pollinators, native plants, conservation and managed care. While the garden is continuing the process of recovery, we are now taking the garden to its next level of restoration by taking additional action to rebuild the soil's microbial environment to a healthier state, adding the opportunity of shade in the garden in order to grow yet another population of plants and increasing both the number and diversity of the native plants growing on

the site so as to be more reflective of the immediate ecoregion.

#### WHO/CONTACT

 Susan Bogle, master naturalist at <u>ifbogle@qvtc.com</u>

#### WHAT

- Community Science conducting surveys including: plant, bloom, butterfly and bird. Collecting & organizing data in order to evaluate development.
- Site Work removing KR Bluestem & non-native plants, installing & maintaining new native plants, spreading native seed, adding biomass (leaves), trail maintenance, distributing mulch & compost, monitoring & recording development, collecting seed to spread elsewhere
- Education/Outreach conducting tours as requested, public outreach to the park visitors, working with high school volunteers.
- Administration we work under the direction of Andy Blair, a local biologist.

#### WHEN

• Monday and Wednesday mornings, <u>starting at 8:30am</u> and working for 3 hours. Most tools are provided. As of 6/22/25, workdays are suspended until fall.

#### WHERE

Located in Canyon Park, along the Madrone Trail.



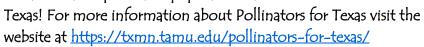
#### WHY IT MATTERS

• This effort will help assure the success of achieving the overall objective to educate the public as to the importance of pollinators, native plants, conservation, preservation and managed care so they can carry that knowledge with them to teach others and to also apply it in their own home or business environment. This garden is intended to teach by example the good stewardship of pollinators that is appropriate in this ecoregion and to also offer a destination for guided educational field trips, along with scientific research and surveys.

#### **HOW TO GET STARTED!**

Email Susan Bogle at <a href="mailto:ifbogle@gvtc.com">ifbogle@gvtc.com</a>.

HEB Grant for the MTPG: Lindheimer Chapter is excited to highlight our participation in the Pollinators for Texas project! Our chapter was selected to receive \$3,000 to help support native pollinators in our area! Our project, Madrone Trail Pollinator Garden (MTPG), aims to make a lasting impact on pollinator conservation. A big thank you to H-E-B for their generous support in this initiative and collaboration with the Texas Master Naturalist Program. Together, we're working to safeguard and enhance native pollinator populations across



- #PollinatorsForTexas
- #TexasMasterNaturalist
   #OurTexasOurFuture









## Web & Facebook Stats

2025 Facebook							Web	Web			
Month	#Posts	Total Views	Page Follows	Most Popular Photo #1	Views	Most Popular Photo #2	Views	Most Popular Photo #3	Views	2025	2024
January	22	5,812	895	Birds - Dugan	542	Kestrel - Bergquist, E.	535	Painted Buntings Class- Broderick	416	3,422	3,357
February	18	6,844	896	Warbler - Bergquist, E.	396	Mushroom - Kimball	347	Bird Array - Bergquist, E.	318	1,854	2,385
March	21	13,882	899	HEB Grant - Andrews, C.	5,214	HEB Grant - Bogle, S.	875	Barred Owl - Wilson, L.	846	2,145	4,034
April	23	5,903	919	Purple Leatherflower - Buley	439	Red LeatherFlower - Buley	355	CaraCara - Epps	269	2,265	3,949
May	27	9,567	923	Rattlesnake - Tim Killam	1,080	MTPG - Sue Sommer	921	Cottonmouth - Cindy Goodrum	450	1,849	3,752
June	21	10,516	929	Bats - Broderick	765	AgriLife Garden - Kyrouac	730	Spiny Lizard - K. Moore	611	1,671	3,432
											3,548
											3,311
											4,060
											3,981
											3,334
											3,664
Total											
YTD	132	52,524								13,206	42,807



"Bumblebee" and "Yellow Warbler" by Cindy Goodrum





Top row: Sue Sommer Bottom row: Skylar Rightmire

## 2025 Class: Painted Buntings



Twenty-four members of the community have committed to the year-long training to become Certified Texas Master Naturalists!







			LMN Class of 2	2025 Schedule	
		Date	Topic	Presenter	Book Unit(s
January	Orientation	7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Orientation	Education team & Chapter Board members	
	Class 6-9pm	14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Geology	Joe Finneran LMN	7
February	Class 6-9pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Weather	Paul Yura – NOAA	8
March	Class 6-9pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Archaeology	D Clark W- Gault School of Archaeology	2, 22
	Gorge Field Trip	8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Geology	GBRA/GPS	
April	Class 6-9pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	E∞logy	John Herron – ret TPWD/TNC	4, 5, 6
	Honey Creek Field Trip	12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Ecology	Nancy Gray – Friends of Honey Creek	
May	Class 6-9pm	6 <sup>th</sup> May	Birds	Tom&Patsy Inglet – Bexar Audubon / AAMN	12
	Crescent Bend Field Trip	10 <sup>th</sup> May			
June	Class 6-9pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun	Botany	Debbie Kyrouac - LMN / NPSOT	10, 11
July	Class 6-9pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Jul	Mammals	Dr Pamela Owen – UT	16
	Bracken Field Trip	6 <sup>th</sup> Jul		Fran Hutchins – BCI	
August	Class 6-9pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Entomology	Molly Keck - AgriLife Extension IPM specialist	13
September	Class 6-9pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Grassland ecology	Doug Dalglish – LMN	17, 20
	Bamberger Field Trip	6 <sup>th</sup> Sept		April Samsom – Bamberger Ranch / Selah	
October	Class 6-9pm	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Herpetology	Ryan Collister - Government Canyon SNA	15
	Meadows Center Field Trip	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Wetland ecology	TX State Education Dept	
November	Class 6-9pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Water Resources	Lauren Willis – GBRA	9
December	Class 6-9pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Urban ecosystems	Debbie Kyrouac – LMN / NPSOT	
	Graduation	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec		at Tye Preston Memorial Library	



## Chapter Recertifications and Milestone Awards

2025 Recertification Pin - Greater Roadrunner

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS! CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT!

X	Recertifications	Milestone Awards
Jan	Ellen Anderson, Susan Bogle, Ron Lucik, Jeanie Springer, Brian Trock, Darlene Varga	250 HOURS: Ricky Corbell, Rosemary Melody
Feb	Don Bergquist, Edith Berquist, Caroline Broderick, Trish Coons, Don Epps, Wendy Harter, Tom Petray, Lois Ricci, Cheryl Trock	250 HOURS: Wendy Harter 1,000 HOURS: Trish Coons, Dave Wright 5,000 HOURS: Lois Ricci
Mar	Carolyn Andrews, Richard Andrews, John Davis, Marian Henderson, Wendy Hill, Jim Jameson, Tim Killam, Anne-Marie Kimball, Deb Kyrouac, Jane Miller, Rhonda Neel, Ellen Petray, Mike Poffenberger, Amy Sharp, Teresa Turko	4,000 HOURS: John Davis
April	Tom Jones, Judy Henfey, Patricia Porterfield, Lisa Smith, Teresa St. John, Rich Nielson, David Meyer, Marilyn McFarland	250 HOURS:. Thomas Oldham 500 HOURS:. Pat Carnes
May	Keith Landry, David Gruener, Christine Gruener, Joni McGhee, Jim Doyle, Evelyn Nielson, Susan Sommer	250 HOURS: Tim Killam, Anne-Marie Kimball 500 HOURS: Margaret Oliver 1,000 HOURS: Caroline Broderick
June		



## Monthly Chapter Meetings



### Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Program



Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 5:45 pm What: What's Happening in Hays County?

Who: Katherine Sturdivant, Education Coordinator

Jacob's Well Natural Area https://www.hayscountytx.gov/jacobs-well-natural-area

Where: Tye Preston Memorial Library (in person only, no online)

Join us for a presentation on and to learn about the geology, history and ecology of the area.

After graduating from LSV with a BA in Anthropology in 2015, Katherine joined the Texas Conservation Corps where she built hiking trails in TX state parks for about a year. Immediately following that term of service, she got a job with Hays County Parks, where she has worked for over 8 years now. She currently serves as the Education and Outreach Coordinator for Hays County Parks. In addition to her bachelor's degree, Katherine holds a masters in Geography from TXST. When she is not at work, she is exploring state parks, hanging out the San Marcos River, or playing forming video outsets.



the San Marcos River, or playing farming videogames at home with her cats.

Established in 2010, Jacob's Well Natural Area is an 81-acre park located in Wimberley, Texas. The Jacob's Well natesian spring, located on the property, is the headwaters of Cypress Creek which flows through flue to the Regions Park and feeds into the Blanco Rive. JMNA is open to the public from 8 a.m. of pm. daily for hiding and viewing the spring. In addition, the Natural Area offices primitive and accessible trails, geocaching, self-guided audio town, bird and wildlife watching opportunities, picnic sites, demonstration gardens, weekend Nature Center exhibits and a small children's play area. (Wholl further notice, no swimming in Jacob's Well).



### Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Program



Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 5:45 pm

What: "Aquifers & Rain Harvesting"

Who: Dr. Larry Sunn, Rain Bees 🥞

HERE: Mammen Pamity Fublic Labrary (in person only, no online) Designer. This event is not affiliated with an apparatused by the Bubesde Avea Rural Library Debict on Mammen Family Public Library.

In this one-hour session, we'll discuss aquifer types, current Comal County water table levels, our two types of aquifers, common misconceptions about aquifers, rates at which groundwater moves through an aquifer, depletion and replenishment rates, and natural filtration. We'll then learn how to capture rain for potable or irrigation purposes. We'll discuss understanding rainwater needs, storing rainwater, assessing a rainwater collection area, filtering leaves & debris, water filtration, monitoring the water level, and carind for your system.





A reliated career Marine captain and a reliated 25-year university pto-fensor of statistics and research from the University of Redlands. Dr. Latry Sunn comults free of charge with area residents interested in rain lativesting systems. Dr. Sunn served his community as a member of Compl Trainty Groundwater. Consequation District's Board of Directors from 2015 to 2025, he is custrently a director on the board of The Contro, an orthopodic surgery training facility, and he is on the board of directors of the Bulverde Community Park Association. He and his wife of 65 years laye lived on the west side of Bulverde for the part 26 years. Informed early in his life that he could become whatever he wanted to become, Dr. Sunn chooses to be a Supteme Commander.





## Lindheimer Chapter Trexas Master Naturalist Program



Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 5:45 pm

What: "Exploring Caves Across the Edwards Plateau for

Lessons About Wildlife Diversity, Past & Present"

Who: John A. Moretti

Where: Tye Preston Memorial Library

Join us to hear John "share new results from current research on Ice Age fossils in Texas caves and how those findings enhance our understanding of species that are critical to modern ecosystems, including free-tailed bats, small wildcats, and others."



Our speaker:
John is a doctoral candidate
studying vertebrate
paleontology in the Jackson
School of Geosciences at The
University of Texas at
Austin. His research seeks to
document natural history
and investigate patterns of
change in the animal
community of North
America over the last 3
million years. John
explores caves across the

Edwards Plateau of Texas to obtain new evidence of how animal communities change over time and how changes in the past led to the biodiversity of today.



## Contributing to Citizen Science: /Naturalist.org

"Citizen" Science is the participation of non-scientists in scientific research. As naturalists, many of us already participate in community science projects that contribute to the body of scientific knowledge about plants, animals & insects: butterfly surveys, bird counts, plant identification. And we take pictures – LOTS of pictures! Each picture is an observation and represents an opportunity to increase the scientific knowledge of what, where & when. One of the largest community science projects is Naturalist, a world-wide, on-line database of observations provided by community scientists like Master Naturalists.

"If enough people recorded their observations, it would be

Egret in my Yard Trish Coons could use to monitor changes in biodiversity, and that *anyone* could use to learn more about nature."

like a living record of life on Earth that scientists and land managers

How to get started? Go to <a href="www.inaturalist.org">www.inaturalist.org</a> and sign up! Here are the Naturalist numbers as of June 29, 2025. Take a look at Comal County!!!

Location	Observations	Species	Observers
World	255,069,196	518,229	3,748,743
Texas	12,921,186	30,278	201,854
Comal County	212,380	5,856	7,861



## The Electronic Lindheimer

Website: <a href="https://txmn.org/lindheimer/">www://txmn.org/lindheimer/</a> Take a look around our website to see what's available!



Facebook: <a href="https://www.//facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer">www://facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer</a>